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AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
SECSTATE WASHDC 1813
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 7624
ALAMA FOR LEGATT
E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: CASC (SULLIVAN, JOHN J.)
SUBJECT: N/A - JOH. J. SULLIVAN
REF: STATE 2[illegible]38
. (C-ENTIRE TEXT.)
. THE FBI POLYGRAPH TEAM IN COUNTRY AT THIS TIME PLEASE
. TO INCLUDE QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF
JOHN SULLIVAN IN OFF FIELD POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS. ONLY
POSTPONE AGAINST FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:
(A) THE TEST RESULTS WOULD BE SCIENTIFICALLY INCONCLUSIVE. A POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION IN A CRIMINAL CASE IS EFFECTIVE ONLY INSOFAR AS IT DEALS WITH QUESTIONS THAT PERTAIN TO A REALM OF KNOWLEDGE OR SPECIFIC SUSPECTS IN A SPECIFIC CASE. POSING QUESTIONS OUT OF WHOLE CLOTH SO TO SPEAK WILL NOT PRODUCE A RELIABLE POLYGRAPH RESULT. A RELIABLE POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION MUST BE BASED ON SOUND INVESTIGATION.
(B) WHAT THE DEPARTMENT IS SUGGESTING IS INCORRECT, IN

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POLYGRAPH PARLANCE, AS "FISHING." POLYGRAPH "FISHING"
VIOLATES FBI OPERATING PROCEDURES.
. WHEN WE HAVE DEVELOPED SPECIFIC SUSPECTS IN THE
SULLIVAN CASE, THEN THE POLYGRAPH EXPERTS BELIEVE THAT AN
EXAMINATION WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE. UNTIL THAT TIME, THEY
BELIEVE THAT A POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION WOULD SERVE NO
USEFUL PURPOSE.
. WHILE WE ALSO CANNOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A

CONFUSION BETWEEN THE AIFLL MURDERS AND THE SULLIVAN CASE
BEST EVIDENCE AVAILABLE SUGGESTS PEARLMAN AND HAMMER WERE
OF INDEPENDENT TARGETS.
SHULTZ
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE MAR 11 '85 1984
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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